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Crime prevention and criminal justice

United Nations Convention against Corruption

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption on the work of its first to seventh sessions (A/58/422)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. In paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption will complete its tasks arising from the negotiation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption by holding a meeting well before the convening of the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. The Ad Hoc Committee is expected to hold that meeting in 2005. The related conference servicing requirements are estimated to amount to $198,800 at full cost. Provisions have already been made for that meeting in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, therefore no additional appropriation would be required.

2. In paragraph 8, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to designate the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to serve as the secretariat for and under the direction of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. Given the complex nature and wide scope of the functions that the secretariat will have to perform, it is considered that current staff resources would probably need to be strengthened after the entry into force of the Convention. It is not possible to assess at this stage the necessary staffing resources to fulfil secretariat functions in accordance with article 64 of the Convention. The secretariat would be in a position to make such an assessment only in the light of the recommendations which the Ad Hoc Committee will make at the preparatory meeting, to be held before the first session of the Conference of the States Parties, and the decisions that the Conference of the States Parties will take at its first session. Given the importance attached by delegations to the Convention, the secretariat estimates that the

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Convention may enter into force in the biennium 2004-2005 and that the first session of the Conference of the States Parties would be held in 2006. Consequently, it may be anticipated that additional regular budget resources may be required to support article 64 operations in the biennium 2006-2007.

3. In paragraph 9, the Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with the resources necessary to enable it to promote in an effective manner the rapid entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to discharge the functions of secretariat of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, and to support the Ad Hoc Committee in its work. The proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 already includes resources to enable the Secretary-General to promote the rapid entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. As regards resources for the discharge of functions of the secretariat of the Convention, it may be noted that while no immediate additional provisions are required, there will probably be additional requirements arising in the biennium 2006-2007. In the absence of any alternate mode of financing being specified in the Convention, such costs would need to be financed by the regular budget of the United Nations.